



Iowa Department of Human Services

Terry E. Branstad
Governor

Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor

Charles M. Palmer
Director

INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO.1497

DATE: March 25, 2015

TO: Iowa Medicaid Ambulance Providers

FROM: Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

RE: Claims Processing Changes and Clarification

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

The IME will begin accepting Advance Life Support (ALS) emergency transport claims without an Ambulance “run” report. ALS claims will be processed based on the emergent diagnosis code appended to the claim as defined by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The Medical Conditions list is available [here](#)¹ for reference.

In order for Medicaid to cover an emergency ambulance transport, the transport must be medically necessary and reasonable. Medical necessity is established when the member’s clinical condition precluded any other method of transportation. An emergency or bed-confined status is such that the use of any other method of transportation would further endanger the individual’s condition. No payment will be made for the ambulance service when another means of transportation, other than an ambulance, could have been utilized without endangering the individual’s health, regardless of whether or not the means was actually available.

Ambulance claims for Basic Life Support (BLS) must be submitted with documentation of medical necessity. The Ambulance “run” report will be reviewed by the IME Medical Services Unit before a reimbursement determination can be made.

Regardless of the necessity to submit the Ambulance “run” report, the provider must document the medical necessity of the transport. The ambulance provider is responsible for maintaining complete and accurate documentation to demonstrate the ambulance service being furnished meets the medical necessity criteria, as stated in Iowa Administrative Code (IAC) 441—78.11(249A) Ambulance service.

If you have any questions, please contact the IME Provider Services Unit at 1-800-338-7909, or locally in Des Moines at 515-256-4609 or by email at imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us.

¹ www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/clm104c15.pdf